

25X1A

Information for [REDACTED] (History, OSA)

1. *closed* The "Technical Capabilities Panel" (chaired by Dr. Edwin H. Land), was set up under ODM's "Surprise Attack Committee" to investigate what could be done to fill the "Intelligence Gap" and provide early warning of Soviet intentions.

On 5 November 1954 the Land Panel submitted to CIA a proposal for a program of high altitude photo-reconnaissance flights over the USSR (which later came to be known as the "U-2 program").

On 19 November 1954, agreement was reached between CIA and the Air Force that the project should be pursued and should be undertaken as a joint project. The agreement between the two agencies was not committed to paper until 2 August 1955 when it was signed for the Air Force by Gen. Nathan F. Twining, and for the Agency by Allen W. Dulles (copy attached).

On 24 November 1954 the proposal was discussed in a meeting at the White House and President Eisenhower approved the project subject to the reservation of the Secretary of Defense that a final look be taken before operations were actually launched.

The only paper reporting the President's approval available in our files is a handwritten memorandum by Gen. Cabell, then DDCI, who attended the meeting with Mr. Dulles.

The Project Outline was completed on 7 January 1955 and approved by the Director on 10 January 1955.

2. During the last week of November 1954, the Director chose Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Jr., then Special Assistant to the Director for Planning and Coordination, to direct the U-2 program. Mr. Herbert I. Miller of the Nuclear Energy Division was to assist him.

recd & The first project staff meeting was held in Mr. Bissell's office 11 December 1954, but the first project T/O was not approved until 28 April 1955. 25X1A

The Air Force assigned [REDACTED] to be Deputy Project Director (as called for in the joint agreement) effective 1 September 1955. On 1 April 1956, [REDACTED] 25X1A was relieved by Col. Jack A. Gibbs. 1 June 58 Col. Wm. Burke entered on duty as replacement for Colonel Gibbs. In April 1958, Mr. Bissell's title was changed to Special Assistant to the Director for Development Projects and the project staff became the "Development Projects Staff".

3. On [redacted] January 1959 Mr. Bissell succeeded Frank Wisner as DD/P and about mid-February 1959 the DPS became the Development Projects Division under the DD/P.

4. AMD (Air Maritime Division) was amalgamated into DPD in stages beginning in April 1959 when air planning in EE Division and the control of the European Air Detachment were transferred to DPD.

In July 1959 air planning in the FE Division and the FE Air Detachment were transferred to DPD. 25X1A

The European Air Detachment was moved to [redacted] in October 1959 under DPD control.

5. The OXCART project (known as GUSTO at its inception) during 1958 consisted of feasibility studies looking toward a successor aircraft to the U-2.

Proposals submitted by Lockheed and Convair Division of General Dynamics were studied by Agency and DOD officials and members of a scientific panel set up for the purpose, and in August 1959 the decision was made (with Presidential approval) to proceed with the Lockheed vehicle.

The OXCART Program was approved by the Director 19 Oct 1959 "subject to availability of funds".

6. CORONA: (Check with [redacted] OSP). 25X1A

7. [redacted]

25X1A

25X1A
25X1A

8. Bay of Pigs --culminated in disaster 18/19 April 1961.
(DPD principal concern in this was, I believe, furnishing pilots and black aircraft -- through [REDACTED]. WH Division was in control of the project)
9. DD/Research - established 19 February 1962, with Herbert Scoville, Jr. as first DD/R
Scoville resigned 15 June 1963; and Col. Edward B. Giller became Acting DD/R
DD/S&T was established 5 August 1963 and Dr. Albert D. Wheelon was appointed first DD/S&T that date
Dr. Wheelon resigned 26 Sept 1966 and Mr. Carl Duckett became Acting DD/S&T on that date.
10. CORONA transfer to OSP (check with [REDACTED] OSP). 25X1A
OSP set up effective 15 Sept 1965